



December 16, 2008

(Sent to Senators Mikulski and Cardin, and
Representatives Van Hollen, Edwards, and Bartlett)

As Congress begins developing an economic stimulus package, we are writing to bring to your attention the importance of ensuring that significant funds are available to local governments. As discussed below, Montgomery County is a prime example of a local government that is able to quickly translate federal dollars into active projects, and to do so in a way that provides much-needed infrastructure improvements, helps develop a green economy, and creates jobs. For that reason, we urge adoption of legislation that includes funding for local governments, either directly or by mandating that state governments provide an appropriate portion of their received funds to local governments.

Montgomery County has a comprehensive and well thought out capital improvements program. With additional funding, we are poised to implement any number of “shovel ready” projects quickly. Moreover, our capital budget reflects careful long-range planning, and as a government that values transparency, we are accountable to both our constituents and the sources of financial support.

Attached are materials that illustrate programs and projects we could initiate with a combination of local revenue and federal money. As these materials indicate, the projects would meet key goals of the economic stimulus package. By way of example:

- **Developing a Green Economy:** A number of the programs are part of the County’s Green Economic Development Initiative (GEDI), which will advance businesses, technologies, and jobs within Montgomery County and the State of Maryland to develop, deploy or adopt green products and services. This includes our continued focus on improving the energy efficiency of our schools and otherwise reducing the environmental impact of our educational facilities.
- **Improving Infrastructure:** Montgomery County has plans for a significant number of highway and transit infrastructure projects, including the Purple Line, the Corridor Cities Transitway, expanded evening Ride-On bus service, new roads, and extended bike paths. The transportation infrastructure improvements are critical to the economic development of both Montgomery County and the State.
- **Enhancing the Environment:** Our planned projects include stream water quality projects that, in many cases, are ready to start construction within 180 days of being funded. We have identified parks and recreation projects that would provide jobs and promote green infrastructure investment. In addition, the county would benefit from

WSSC and WASA initiatives to address severely aging water and wastewater infrastructures.

- **Creating Economic Growth:** Montgomery County is the engine that drives Maryland's economy. This means that we can quickly and efficiently put money from a federal economic stimulus package to use in ways that have the broadest economic impact.

At this point, of course, we do not know the specifics of the economic stimulus legislation that is expected to be enacted at the start of the 111th Congress. As specific elements become known, we would like to work with you to ensure that Montgomery County is well-positioned to aid in reaching the federal government's objectives. An important component of any package, however, will be a mechanism for ensuring that local government programs and projects are appropriately funded.

We look forward to working with you on efforts to stimulate the economy in Montgomery County, in Maryland, and across the nation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

/s/

Phil Andrews
President
Montgomery County Council